

FINDS JOY IN PLAY CLEANING
 A. J. REE & SONS, INCORPORATED AND BOND-
 FIDEL, HARTFORD.

She Young Woman Who Had to Take Her Own Toy While Studying State Tests in Minnesota and Didn't Find It Wrong—She Works for Shalimar Cigars.

"I arrived on a flat at 6 o'clock in the morning, when the woman who lives there is about to start down town. We have a few minutes to spare, so I sit on the sofa and wait for attention and then she goes and locks the keys and my money in a strong and invisible. For the rest of the day I am mistress of all I survey."

"When the owner of the flat gets home that night she finds the keys in her pocket and her house thoroughly swept, scrubbed and dusted—so clean and shining as hard work can make it. I guarantee my side of the bargain, and I've never had a single complaint yet. After all that's a pretty good record."

"There's such a demand for work of the kind among Negro women who live in such a crowded condition that they are making money that can be put in complete charge of a home for the day without needing looking after, that I wonder a great many more younger Negro women don't go to my work. I could be on my feet one for each day of the week. I could have ten times that number if I had time to take them.

"I came to New York three years ago to study, and I was making creditable progress at a large school here when my father died and the little income upon which I had been relying stopped. I was and am very poor, but I could not dare bear the thought of giving it up and going home. I decided that I would find some work to do during the day and continue with my study at night.

"I don't know stenography, but I procured a position as general office assistant at \$7 a week. Talk of menial labor! I think

"After a month of office work I had developed sick headaches, and I hadn't a cent

served toward the spring term at the music school. When a girl came to pay her carriage and lunch money, he would hand her a fresh shirt waisted for every day out of \$7 a week she can't put much aside, let me tell you.

He resigned my position in the office and consulted my teacher about instructing beginners in the piano. He was most discouraging. He pointed out that it would be a waste of time to teach a large number that season. One of his graduates taught the beginners among his private pupils, he said, and he knew of many women more advanced than the beginners. He offered to send pupils at 50 cents a lesson. But he said he said I showed great promise, and he would give me the next term's tuition free.

"That was so encouraging that I decided I would manage to stay somehow; but I confess I was very blue going home that first night. I lived in a rooming house of a flat which belonged to a successful business woman; one who made \$35 or \$40 a week in a broker's office. When I reached home I found a note pinned to the door in a tragic state of mind. The cleaning woman had just sent her word that she couldn't come the next day because her sister was visiting. I was alone. I was flat. I was to have company the next evening.

"Isn't it dreadful of her to desert me like this?" she exclaimed. The flat hasn't been cleaned for days. I have no time to fix it myself. And I don't know of any one else I could trust to be alone here

"If you will credit the \$1.50 you pay her on to my rent. I'll clean the flat for you," remarked suddenly.

"She stared at me. 'I only wish you meant it,' she said."

"I do mean it," I replied; and I explained my position to her. "I'm willing to do anything I can to help out until I get off my work," I said. "I'll do it gladly."

"I was properly brought up in an old-fashioned home."

"I closed with the offer at once, and the next morning I started in. I had always been fond of housework, anyhow; and you can't think what a relief that day of hectic, bustling activity was to me after the tedious staidness of the office."

By half-past four that flat was spick and

span throughout its four rooms. Then I came home, I saw a man, and got up to go out to dinner at 6, feeling as fresh as a daisy.

The owner of the flat was delighted when she came home. She said, 'I almost made her wish that I didn't get any work for a long time to come.'

'If I could get enough of this sort I might do anything else,' I replied.

'If you really mean that,' she said, 'you all you want among my friends,' said the business woman.

'I don't,' I replied again. That was all I had to do to get my start.

'At first I charged only \$1.50 a day, but I soon raised my price to \$2. That isn't much, but he has been so good to me that you consider that usually, \$9.50, three

have a flat together and share expenses. I never accepted a flat which has more than one bathroom, because I thought it would be late exactly what I am to accomplish before engaging to take it.

No indeed, I don't consider myself a housewife. A thing must be done properly if it is to be done at all. I wear rubber gloves for the rough work, so my hands do not suffer, and scrubbing is one of the best developing exercises for both arms and chest.

In fact, a full day of housework is the finest all round course of physical culture that a woman can follow. I often think that my splendid strength is due to mother making us all do our share about the house when we were children; and when I see

The girl who makes cleaning her job work can easily do two small flats a day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, and charge \$1.50 for each. I thought I would try to make a few extra dollars and keep myself fresh for my music in the evening.

My hours was one of the difficult things to work out. I was a business woman understand. The ordinary cleaning woman makes \$1.00 till six, and they thought I should do it too. I reasoned, however, that a good cleaning woman could only from nine till five, and I was entitled to eight hours she enjoys, only I chose from eight

For instance, I stuck to my point and won it. I was not a quitter. I was a winner for my evening's study. As I did, I always get my bath and a rest before dinner.

When it comes to the way they treat you, people of color are not inferior, but superior to any other class. I won't waste for any except business women now, because I have found they are the only ones who are not afraid of anything. And you may be quite as nice as they are. I go for cleaning for a living. Most of them are very respectful, but positively admire me for my respect for them. In this way I have made several good friends. Often they ask me to remain in their home till they get home and take dinner with them. I have made several good friends among the women.

Yes, I am getting along with my music.

I won a scholarship this year, so I calculate that by the time I've been graduated here I will have enough saved for a year abroad. That should be a pretty good recommendation for cleaning data to other ambitious

young women, shouldn't it?"